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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Tariff to Establish Zero Minus Charges*  
Docket No. 03-00603

*{ Tate  
Miller  
Jones*

*12/8/03  
Agenda*

Dear Chairman Tate:

In response to concerns raised by the Directors yesterday in connection with this proposed tariff, we have had further discussions with the BellSouth Operator Services group. Specifically, we have asked the Operator Services group whether it would be possible to use the existing Directory Assistance database to provide comparable exemptions for Zero Minus dialing under the proposed tariff for handicapped persons and persons aged 65 and older.

Unfortunately, operators providing Zero Minus-type services are served by a different database than that used by the operators providing Directory Assistance services. Consequently, BellSouth would have to incur new expenses in order to provide these exemptions in connection with the proposed Zero-Minus tariff. These expenses would be solely related to Tennessee and could not be apportioned regionally inasmuch as all other BellSouth states have approved this tariff without such conditions. These Tennessee specific expenses would be cost prohibitive given the limited revenue projections for the tariff.

Very truly yours,

  
Guy M. Hicks

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